

Paper title:

## **Rural Poverty and Early Parental Home-Leaving in the Philippines**

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### EXTENDED ABSTRACT

The rural sector accounts for over three-fourths of poverty in almost all regions in the Philippines. Furthermore, the prospects of the poor is bleak given the high inequality in access to land, poor state of rural infrastructure, low level of human capital, and unfavorable policy environment in rural areas (Balisacan, 1999).

Results of the most recent nationwide youth survey in the Philippines show that 35 per cent of adolescents left their parental home early to work. More than half of them left home because they wanted help their family financially while more than one-third of them left their home to earn for their education and to provide for their personal needs. The mean age for leaving parental home for work is 16.8 years or at the time when they just graduated from high school (if they ever reached that level of schooling).

This study examines how poverty impinges on the trajectory of adolescent life course focusing on home-leaving and its specific routes such as schooling, working and marriage.

The analysis uses data from the Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Study 3 (YAFS 3), the third of a series of youth surveys that covered all 16 administrative regions in the Philippines. It includes both male and female regardless of marital status. The survey included information about the past and current individual as well as family experiences of young people.

A multivariate proportional hazards regression analysis was utilized to evaluate the odds of leaving the parental home in relation to the different motivations for the departure such as school, work, marriage and living with other relatives. For each motivation, the hazard of leaving home is evaluated for all those remaining home and those who left for other reasons are censored.

Age first left home is the survival time variable. Respondents were asked what age they were when they "first left their parental home for a period of 3 months or more". A follow-up question asked the reason for leaving the parental home. Information about the current living arrangement was also utilized to create the current status variable.

Six variables were used to explain the determinants of early parental home leaving. These are: sex, urban-rural place of residence, poverty status, whether the respondent was raised by both parents until age 15, age left school and age first worked. The descriptive statistics for the analysis of parental home leaving are shown in Table 1.

*Table 1. Descriptive Statistics for the Analysis of Parental Home-Leaving*

Variable	Definition	Mean
Sex	Sex of respondent	.478
Rural	Area of residence (rural-urban)	.542
Poor	Poverty status of family/household (poor-nonpoor)	.328
Raised	Whether the respondent was raised by both parents or not until he/she reached the age of 15 years old	.847
RF9	Age when the respondent left school	17.084
RF29	Age when the respondent first worked	17.002

Results of the Cox hazard model reveal that females, living in rural areas, who belong to a poor family, not raised by both parents, left school earlier and worked at a younger age are more likely to leave their parental home early.

The increasing demand for young female workers in the local as well as international job markets and the lack of job opportunities for them in their homeland pushes young women to move to other places to seek for better life. Unfortunately, most of them have low education, lack technical skills and are not quite ready to live independently from their parents. Thus many of them get low-paying jobs such as doing domestic work.

Poverty particularly in the rural areas also pushes adolescents to leave their parental home. Due to poverty, parents provide limited social capital to their children. In fact, many of them leave school due to lack of financial resources. Thus, they are left with no choice but to work in order to augment the family income.

Another factor that predisposes adolescents to early home-leaving is the family structure. Those with broken family tend to move out early to get out of their unwanted situation.

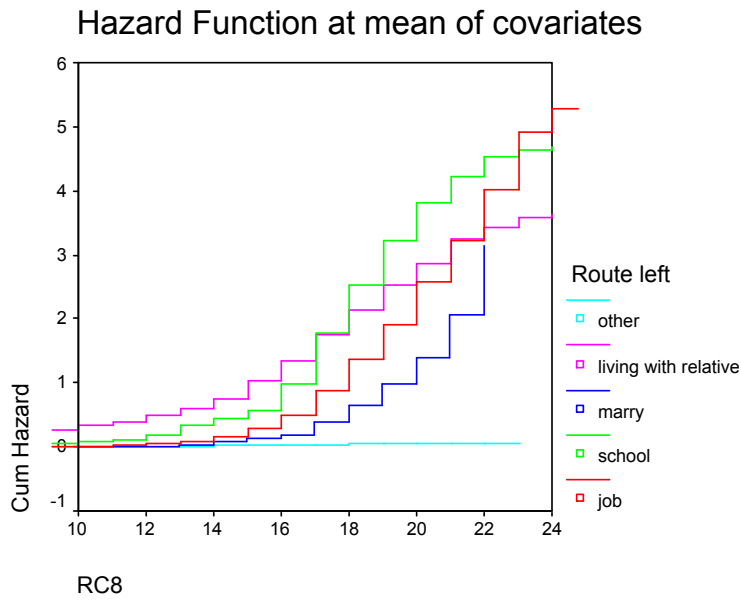
These results show that it is important to show the relationship between economic and family variables and early home leaving since this life event unnecessarily expose adolescents to risks that could negatively impact on the trajectory of their life course. In the end, the parents must assess the readiness, willingness and ability of their children to live independently and become productive adult members of our society.

*Table 2. Logit Coefficients and Odds Ratios: Overall Model*

### Variables in the Equation

	B	SE	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
SEX	-.187	.024	61.881	1	.000	.829
RURAL	.066	.025	7.189	1	.007	1.068
POOR	.143	.026	31.279	1	.000	1.153
RAISED	-.179	.030	34.784	1	.000	.836
RF29	-.002	.001	12.689	1	.000	.998
RF9	-.009	.001	51.591	1	.000	.991

Figure 1.



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